

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/049,297

Examiner

Bradley B. Bayat

Applicant(s)

WALKER ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Board decision rendered on January 12, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 98-108.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

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#### DETAILED ACTION

Prior office actions are incorporated in this office action by reference. This communication is in furtherance of the Board decision rendered on January 12, 2006.

- Claims 1-97 have been previously canceled.
- Claims 98-108 are allowed."

#### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 98-108 are allowed.

This case was remanded in a Board decision dated January 12, 2006. The rejection based upon 35 USC 101 in view of Ex parte Lundgren is withdrawn. Furthermore, in view of applicant's filing of a terminal disclaimer on April 7, 2006, the double patenting rejection is also withdrawn.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per claims 98, 99 and 108, the closest prior art of record (U.S. Patent No. 5,687,322 to Deaton et al or 5,380,991 to Valencia et al) taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest determining a first and second discount wherein the specific allowable feature is determining a second discount based on whether a first difference between the time of the current transaction and the time of the previous purchase is less than a predetermined minimum transaction period and whether a second difference between the time of the current transaction and the time of the first discount is greater than a predetermined discount adjustment period. This specific feature is not suggested in the prior art and distinguishes the present invention over the prior art. Claims 100-107 are dependent upon claim 99 and thus have all the limitations of claim 99 and are allowable for that reason.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley B. Bayat whose telephone number is 571-272-6704. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and by email: [bradley.bayat@uspto.gov](mailto:bradley.bayat@uspto.gov).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached regarding urgent matters at 571-272-6712.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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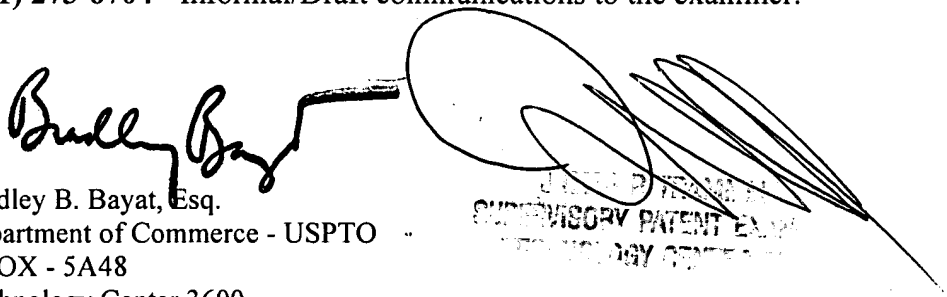
Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

**(571) 273-8300** - Official communications; including After Final responses.

**(571) 273-6704** - Informal/Draft communications to the examiner.

  
Bradley B. Bayat, Esq.  
Department of Commerce - USPTO  
KNOX - 5A48  
Technology Center 3600  
Art Unit 3621 - Patent Examiner  
(571) 272-6704 Direct Dial  
(571) 273-6704 Direct Fax  
(571) 273-8300 Official Central Fax

June 6, 2006